

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the title in the paragraph on page 1, lines 1-3, with the following amended paragraph:

PROCESS FOR THE SYNTHESIS OF NUCLEIC ACIDS ON A SOLID SUPPORT
AND COMPOUNDS WHICH ARE USEFUL IN PARTICULAR AS SOLID
SUPPORTS IN THE SAID PROCESS

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, lines 28-37, with the following amended paragraph:

In order to ~~fulfill~~fulfill the four conditions described above, and in particular the last one, the supports currently used are bound to the first ribonucleoside or deoxyribonucleoside of the sequence to be synthesized, as described above. In particular, there ~~is~~are no phosphate groups between the 3' (or 5') end of the first nucleotide or nucleoside and the functionalized polymer. In order to start the synthesis, the operator must thus select from among supports corresponding in general to a formula as follows:

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, lines 21-26, with the following amended paragraph:

- 1) condensation, using a coupling agent, of the ~~said~~ OH group of the ~~said~~ group of glycol type of the solid support with a phosphate or phosphite group optionally substituted in the 3' or 5' position of a nucleotide monomer reagent protected in the 5'-O and 3'-O positions;

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, line 39 to page 9, line 3, with the following amended paragraph:

- 5) oxidation or sulfurization of the internucleotide grouping of the phosphite phosphite ~~[sic]~~ type resulting from the above step into a grouping of the phosphate or phosphorothioate type respectively;

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 29-34, with the following amended paragraph:

The process according to the invention comprises in this case a prior step of opening of the said epoxide group of the said solid support, in an anhydrous acidic medium, under the usual conditions for the deprotection of the 5' or 3' OH groups in order to give the said group of the glycol type of the solid support.

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, lines 2-5, with the following amended paragraph:

- one of R_1 , R'_1 , R''_1 , R_2 and R'_2 represents an inorganic or organic polymer – (P) or a hydrocarbon radical substituted with~~linked via an amide or ether linkage to~~ an inorganic or organic polymer, and

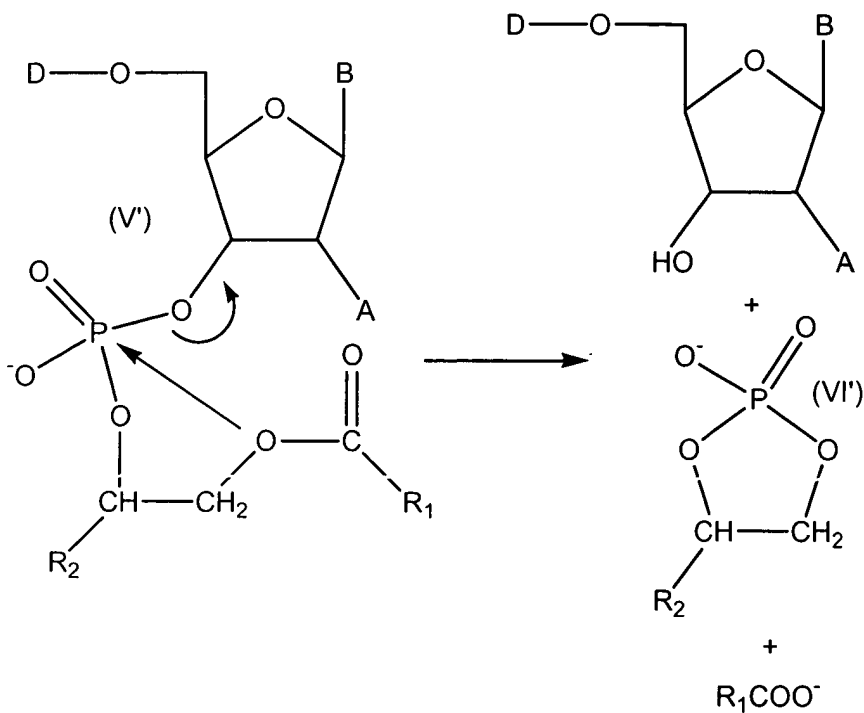
Please replace the paragraph at page 10, lines 17-18 with the following amended paragraph:

In an appropriate embodiment, the said solid support ~~takes up~~ comprises one of the formulae:

Please replace the paragraphs at page 12, line 26 to page 13, line 5 with the following amended paragraphs:

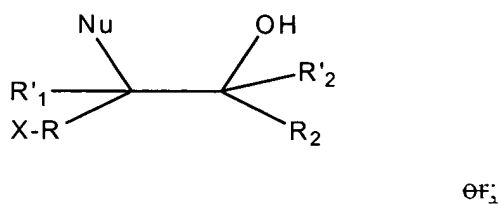
- ~~When~~when x is equal ~~to~~ to 1, R_3 is a hydrogen atom and ~~R_4 is a hydrogen atom and R_4 is a negatively charged oxygen atom~~ R_4 is a negatively charged oxygen atom ~~{sic}~~, this situation relates to the so-called ~~H-phosphonate~~H-phosphonate method, and
- when x is equal to 0, R_3 is an oxygen atom bearing a protecting group and R_4 is ~~either~~ a halogen, this situation relates to the so-called phosphite method and, when R_4 is a leaving group of the ~~disubstituted~~di-substituted amine type, this situation relates to the so-called phosphoramidite method.

Please replace the scheme at page 14, lines 12-15, with the following scheme:



Please replace the paragraph at page 15, lines 14-19, with the following amended paragraph:

~~The~~In particular, the compounds of formula (I), ~~(I')~~ or (II) may be prepared, for example, from a polymer functionalized with a COOH or NH₂ group which is reacted, in a known manner, with the terminal function X = NH₂ or COOH respectively of a compound

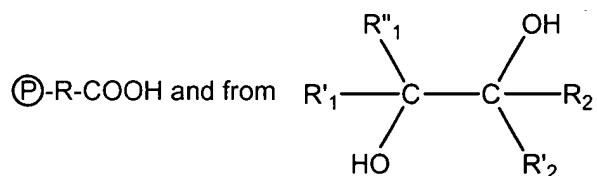
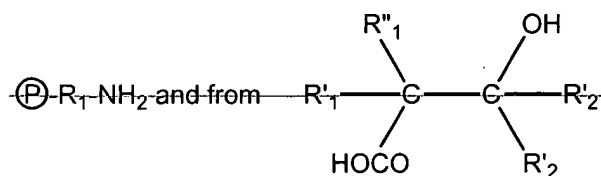


Please replace the paragraph at page 15, lines 22-23, with the following amended paragraph:

- R is a divalent residue of a hydrocarbon radical such that R₁ = (P) - R -, i.e., in structure (I).

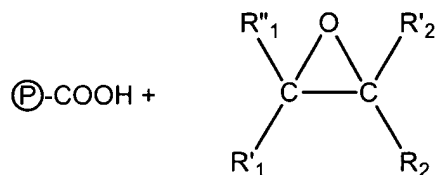
Please replace the paragraph on page 15, line 31 to page 16, line 1, with the following amended paragraph:

The compounds of formulae ~~[sic]~~ formula (I')(II), with R₁ including the polymer, may also be prepared from



Please replace the paragraph on page 16, lines 9-13, with the following amended paragraph:

When the solid support is represented by the formula (II) with (P) being included in R₁, it may be prepared starting with a polymer functionalized with a carboxyl function (this type of polymer is commercially available) according to the following scheme:



under the conditions illustrated in Example 68.

Please replace the paragraph on page 16, lines 15-17, with the following amended paragraph:

When the inorganic polymer ~~[sic]~~ is made of silica, the Si – OH groups thereof may be reacted with compounds

Please replace the paragraph on page 17, lines 22-24, with the following amended paragraph:

- in a process for the synthesis of DNA or RNA, there is no additional step ~~{lacuna}~~for the user of the support;

Please add the following paragraphs to page 19, after line 27:

Scheme 3 represents the capping step.

Scheme 4 represents the oxidation step. All ribose rings in Schemes 1-4 are D rings.

Please replace all paragraphs on pages 20, 21 and 22 with the paragraphs on enclosed replacement pages 20, 21 and 22.

Please replace the paragraph on page 23, lines 30-32, with the following amended paragraph:

The synthesis was performed with the same support as in Example 2, with a synthesis of ~~AGTC~~AGUC in the RNA series.

Please replace the paragraph on page 24, lines 5-12, with the following amended paragraph:

The support obtained in Example 1 is washed in the reactor with an HCl solution at a concentration of 1% of dichloromethane. A support of the glycol type with Nu = Cl is obtained and the synthesis is carried out, again under the standard conditions of the phosphoroamidite method. The treatment and the detachment of the oligonucleotide ~~is~~ ~~{sie}~~are carried out as in Example 2. About 90% of ON-trityl oligonucleotide ~~are~~is obtained.

Please replace the paragraphs on page 24, lines 19-24, with the following amended paragraphs:

Using the disc obtained in Example 4 ~~{sie}~~6, a disc is cut (\varnothing 4mm, 1 mg) and the synthesis, the treatment and the detachment of the oligonucleotides d(AGTC) ~~is~~ ~~{sie}~~are performed as in Example 3.

At least 90% of ON-trityl oligonucleotide ~~are~~is obtained.